

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T DACCA 4053

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BG, IN PINR

SUBJ: ALLEGED INDIAN ACTIVITIES AGAINST BANGLADESH

1. DURING MY CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN TODAY, HE HANDED ME A CONFIDENTIAL PAPER ENTITLED "ACTIVITIES OF INDIAN TRAINED MISCREANTS", WHICH IS SET FORTH IN NEXT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM, AND ASKED BRIGADIER M.A. MANZUR, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF, TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS SUBJECT. THE BURDEN OF BRIGADIER MANZUR'S COMMENTS WAS THAT BDG INTELLIGENCE HAD MADE AN ASSESSMENT THAT INDIA HAD FORMED PLANS TO FOMENT DISORDERS IN BANGLADESH IN THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON AUGUST 15 -- THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF SHEIKH MUJIB -- WHICH COULD BE USED, IF DESIRED, AS THE PRETEXT FOR INDIAN INTERVENTION ON THE BASIS THAT REGIONAL STABILITY WAS THREATENED. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN, HE SAID, WAS TO ENABLE INDIA TO BRING ABOUT A GOVERNMENT OF ITS CHOICE IN BANGLADESH.

2. BRIGADIER MANZUR SAID THAT FOR THIS PURPOSE INDIAN-TRANIED MISCREANTS HAVE NOW STARTED RETURNING TO BANGLADESH, SOME OF THEM EQUIPPED WITH WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES. HE SAID THAT BDG INTELLIGENCE HAD INFILTRATED THIS MOVEMENT AND WAS COVERING IT THOROUGHLY. SEVERAL ARRESTS HAD BEEN MADE ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT BEING PUBLICIZED. HE SAID THAT A TRAIN HAD BEEN DERAILED IN

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NORTH BENGAL, AND 16 PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED.

3. I OBSERVED THAT THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT, GENERAL ZIA, AND FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD ALL BE OUT OF BANGLADESH DURING THE BEGINNING OF THE AFFECTED PERIOD SEEMED TO REFLECT CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES CITED BY BRIGADIER MANZUR. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO TOP INDIAN OFFICIALS IN COLOMBO WAS ALSO A FACTOR IN THE SITUATION, ENABLING BDG TO TRY TO DISSUADE INDIAN GOVERNMENT FROM SUCH ACTIVITIES. BRIGADIER MANZUR ADDED THAT THEY WERE CONFIDENT OF THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL EVENTS SINCE BANGLADESH POPULATION WAS LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THEY REGARDING INDIAN INTENTION TO CARRY OUT THIS PLAN AS FIRM, BUT THEY REGARDED THE PROSPECTS OF IT SUCCEEDING AS REMOTE.

3. WE WILL BE COMMENTING ON THIS IN OUR REPLY TO STATE'S 195335.
BOSTER

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NNN

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